

Sirhan Wins Three-Week Plea Delay

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was granted an additional three weeks today to enter his plea to a charge of murder.

Defense attorney Russell E. Parsons won a delay from Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer, saying he needed more time to study the transcript.

The hearing, which lasted nine minutes, was conducted in the third-floor chapel-auditorium of the Los Angeles County jail under strict security.

SIRHAN, 24-YEAR-OLD Jordanian immigrant, entered the room flanked by four large deputies who virtually hid the slender defendant from the approximately 150 newsmen on hand.

Judge Schauer at Parsons' request appointed a psychiatrist, Dr. George Abe of Metropolitan State Hospital in suburban Norwalk, to examine Sirhan and submit a confidential report for use of the defense.

Dr. Abe will replace Dr. Edward Stanbrook, who declined a request to examine the defendant. Another physician, Dr. Eric Marcus, already has examined Sirhan for the defense.

SIRHAN walked into the temporary court, apparently recovered from the sprained ankle that forced him to use a wheel chair when he was arraigned on a murder charge. The ankle was injured while he was being subdued after Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded during an election victory celebration June 5.

Before granting the continu-

ance to July 19 the judge asked Sirhan if he would waive his right to go to trial within 60 days after the return of the indictment.

"YES, I DO," Sirhan said, so faintly he was asked to repeat it. To an earlier question on whether he wanted Parsons to replace the public defender as his attorney, his answer was perfectly audible.

Judge Schauer said he would ask Dr. Abe to give a general psychiatric examination. He said he would order the doctor not to give a copy to anyone except the defense.

PARSONS SAID he wanted to study the lengthy transcript of the county grand jury proceeding June 7 that led to Sirhan's indictment on one count of murder and five counts of assault with intent to commit murder.

The assault charges were filed on behalf of five bystanders wounded in the fusillade of

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bullets that felled the Democratic presidential aspirant.

The most seriously wounded of those five, Paul Schrade, western regional director for the United Auto Workers Union, was reported yesterday to be making satisfactory progress toward recovery.

TODAY'S PROCEEDING at the chapel, where Sirhan formally was charged with murder three weeks ago, originally had been scheduled for the Hall of Justice, where he is to be tried.

The location was changed because security measures at the hall were not complete.

The County Board of Supervisors has authorized installation of protection devices, at an estimated cost of \$20,000, because of numerous threats against Sirhan and Parsons.

NEW WALLS and heavy steel doors are being installed in a 13th floor room which will be used for noncourtroom proceedings.

The trial will be held on the hall's eighth floor and the route Sirhan will take to the courtroom will be sealed and the windows covered with heavy steel plates. In the courtroom itself, Sirhan, the judge, jury and attorneys will be protected by a large shield of steel and bullet-proof glass.